

Grecian Bend Saloon  
South Pass Avenue  
South Pass City  
Fremont County  
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-37

HABS  
WYO,  
7-SOPAC,  
10-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20005

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. WYO-37

## GRECIAN BEND SALOON

HABS  
WYO,  
7-SOPAC,  
10-

Location: South Pass Avenue, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS South Pass City Quadrangle Map) 12.680860.4703880.

Present Owner: State of Wyoming.

Present Use: Preserved as historic building by Wyoming Recreation Commission.

Statement of Significance: This building is on the site of the original Grecian Bend Saloon, a frontier saloon of unusually exquisite appointment. The Grecian Bend Saloon is a reconstruction of the original 1889 structure.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1889.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of property: Lot 94 on South Pass Avenue, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.

(Note: For further information on land ownership in South Pass City see the HABS Report on South Pass City, WYO-27.) The original building on this site was constructed in 1868 and was, perhaps, torn down to be replaced by the present structure in 1889. The Grecian Bend Saloon served as a saloon under the ownership of Ameroux and Bowie in 1868-1869 and as a general store, "Red Store," under the ownership of George Searle and, later, J. D. Farmer. It appears to have disappeared some time in the 1870's. Evidence suggests it was torn down since there are no indications of a fire affecting the Sherlock Hotel which had been built in 1868, and is located immediately to the east.

The present building was constructed in 1889 by Mrs. Janet Sherlock, who had owned the adjacent hotel since 1873. The Sherlock family operated a restaurant in the Grecian Bend until 1948 when Fred Stratton bought the town of South Pass

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City. In 1955, Mr. and Mrs. John Woodring came into the ownership of the town and the Grecian Bend was operated as a saloon and restaurant until 1966. In that year, the Wyoming 75th Anniversary Commission, Inc., purchased the property to the Old South Pass Historical Preserve, a Commission of the State of Wyoming. The 1969 Wyoming Legislature phased out the Old South Pass Historical Preserve Commission and transferred control of the property to the Wyoming Recreation Commission.

4. Alterations and additions: The 1889 structure did not have a false front and was divided into four rooms with a stove in each section and with two chimneys. The building was altered when the Woodrings bought it and placed a bar in the building. However, the most extensive change came in 1971. The Wyoming Recreation Commission removed the chimney and the wall that separated the saloon into two rooms. A false front, added some years earlier, was retained.

The bar in the present structure is a restoration of the bar in the original Grecian Bend. After the original Grecian Bend was torn down, the bar was transported to a club in Superior, Wyoming. Later the American Legion Club at Rock Springs, Wyoming obtained the bar. John Woodring bought the bar from the club and placed it in the Grecian Bend Saloon cutting off one-third of the bar to fit in the space available. In 1971, the Wyoming Recreation Commission had the bar restored to its original length.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The Sherlock family was one of the pioneer families of South Pass City and Fremont County (see South Pass City, Wyoming HABS No. WYO-49). The original 1868 Grecian Bend Saloon was known for its interior appointments which were unusually fine for its frontier setting.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: None located of original building.
2. Bibliography:
  - a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Carter County, Records of Carter County, "Deed Books A, B, and C," Dakota Territory. Western History Research Center, Coe Library, Laramie, Wyoming.

Files on South Pass City, Wyoming State Archives and  
Historical Research Department; Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Hebard, Grace, 1920. Interview of Mrs. Janet Sherlock.  
Archived at Western History Research Center, Coe  
Library, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.

Shaffer, Thomas, planner for the Wyoming Recreation  
Commission; interview in Cheyenne, Wyoming on June  
19, 1973.

Prepared by John Paige  
Project Historian  
National Park Service  
Summer, 1973

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This building is an example of a restored nineteenth century frontier saloon.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: One story, approximately 23' x 51'.
2. Foundations: Continuous reinforced concrete foundations under perimeter wall with three concrete block piers under the center of the building.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Rough-sawn two by six stud frame with horizontal drop siding. The siding is painted white on the front and a portion of the rear wall. The side walls and remaining portion of the rear wall are unfinished.
4. Structural system, framing: Rough-sawn two by six joists, rafters and knee-braces.
5. Porches, stoops: Rough-sawn two by six boardwalk across front of building.
6. Chimneys: One brick chimney located adjacent to the wall between the rear rooms and the saloon begins at a height of seven

feet-six inches and is supported by a knee-braced wooden shelf. A second chimney located adjacent to the removed wall (which was at the mid-point of the present saloon room) has been removed. Evidence of its location can be seen in the closed opening in the roof.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: There is a double-leaf entrance door which is flush with the front wall. The upper four feet of each door has a six-light fixed window. One rear door has four recessed wooden panels.
- b. Windows and shutters: There are large six-light fixed windows on either side of the front entrance light. The remaining windows are double-hung with four-over-four light sash in the saloon room and six-over-six light sash in the two rear rooms.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with wooden shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed cornice with six wooden brackets is located at top of false front. There is a wooden molding at approximately the location of the ceiling line.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: Rectangular false front with horizontal cornice center on ridge line on the north elevation.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: This single floor building has one main room on the front which is the saloon (bar) room. (There is evidence that this room was originally two rooms with a wall separating the front room from a middle room.) There are two rooms in the rear with the larger being on the southwest. Old photos indicated a lean-to shed was located on the rear of the building at the west corner.
2. Flooring: New flooring of 1 x 8 planks.
3. Wall and ceiling finish:
  - a. Walls: In the saloon room and larger rear room walls are composed of cardboard glued to a series of laminated wood strips approximately 3/16th of an inch thick and painted. Smaller rear room has plywood paneling textured to look like random width vertical boards.

- b. Ceiling: Painted metal with continuous raised ridge at four-inches-on-center in saloon room and larger rear room. Dropped ceiling of acoustical tile in smaller rear room.
- 4. Doorways and doors: There is one doorway with a recessed four panel door between the saloon and larger rear room. There is one doorway and door between two rear rooms. This doorway, on the small room side, is paint-textured to look like natural wood.
- 5. Cabinet work: Front bar and mirrored back bar are located on the east wall of the saloon room. The right-hand one-third of this bar was reproduced to equal the left-hand one-third of the bar at the time the building was reconstructed. There is extensive additional restoration work in evidence on the bar.
- 6. Mechanical Equipment: Heating stove in the center of the saloon room, near rear wall, is a Willson, Estes and Fairchild No. 38, Improved-Box iron stove (Leavenworth, Kansas), patented in 1867. Heating stove in the larger rear room is located in the northeast corner. It is a No. 115 Modern Oak iron stove by Castle Comfort Stove Co., Quincy, Illinois. Electricity has been added to the building with an electric wall heater located on the rear exterior wall of the smaller rear room.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: Facing approximately twenty-five degrees west of north, the Grecian Bend Saloon is located on the south side of South Pass Avenue between the restored Sherlock Hotel on the east and the restored Exchange Bank, on the west. The Saloon along with the Sherlock Hotel and the Exchange Bank and Recorder's Office form the center of the presently reconstructed area of South Pass City.

Prepared by J. William Rudd  
Architect  
Project Supervisor  
National Park Service  
Summer, 1973

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the 1973 Wyoming Project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Wyoming Recreation Commission. During the project, records were made on twenty-eight (28) individual subjects and six (6) historic areas.

This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati. Project Historian was John Paige, Oklahoma State University. The measured drawings were prepared by John Uhler, University of California at Berkeley, Architect; and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq, University of Cincinnati, Clayton Fraser, University of Tennessee, and Richard Wyatt, California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.